

Date: 1/02/03
Age: 39
SIC: 9221 (Police Protection)
Cause: Gun-shot

Explanation: The Forensic Director was examining a weapon and apparently there was a shell lodged in the weapon and it misfired striking him in the chest and exiting through the back.

The gun did not have a safety mechanism. It was an SKS or AK-47 style assault rifle.

Date: 1/04/03
Age: 51
SIC: 1799 (Special Trade Contractors)
Cause: Crushed by falling concrete

Explanation: The employee was in the yard south of the Beltran Fence and Construction Co. power spraying concrete slabs. There were a total of 5 slabs, measuring 12' 6" in length, 4" 10" in height. Each weighed approximately 4000 pounds. The slabs were placed in a row running perpendicular to the concrete pad. The slabs were approximately 4' 6" apart, separated and supported by a schedule 40 iron pipe, 2 and ½ in diameter sunk 8" into the concrete base.

The victim was in between the 4th and 5th slab washing off the sediment. The slab farthest west began to topple, causing a domino affect, toppling each of the adjoining slabs. The employee was crushed between the 4th and 5th slab. Paramedics arrived on the scene within 10 minutes. By the time of their arrival the victim was declared dead.

Date: 1/24/03
Age: 35
SIC: 1742 (Plastering, Drywall, Acoustical, and Insulation Work)
Cause: Fall from Scaffold

Explanation: The employee was working off of a scaffold, installing drywall. The employee fell when the scaffolding failed and collapsed on top of the employee. The employee sustained head and neck injuries and was pronounced dead at the hospital. One section of the scaffolding was bent approximately 1 foot off of the floor.

Date: 2/26/03
Age: 39
SIC: 1794 (Excavation Work)
Cause: Crushed

Explanation: Three employees were laying pipe in a trench. One employee was in the trench box, one employee was operating the trackhoe and the third employee (the victim) was the groundman. He was on the blind side of the trackhoe so the operator could not see him.

A piece of 24" RCP pipe was being lowered into the trench box, The victim stepped onto the ledge of the box and stuck his head over the top of the box to speak with the employee inside the box. He was then struck in the head by the bucket of the trackhoe, and his head was pinned between the trackhoe bucket and the top edge of the trench box. When the bucket was moved, the victim fell, head down, between the embankment and the trench box, and struck his head on the ledge and side of the trench box before being wedged into the 12" space.

Date: 4/30/03

Age: 30

SIC: 1743 (Terrazzo, Tile, Marble, and Mosaic Work)

Cause: Crushed

Explanation: A shipping cargo container of stone products was received, with the cargo container mounted on a standard trailer frame. The owners were in the process of unloading the cargo trailer. The trailer was parked in the open paved parking lot. No loading dock was available at this location. They successfully unloaded several smaller containers of stone. At the back of the trailer three crates of stone remained. Each crate contained 10 granite slabs measuring approximately 6'X9'X7/8", with the slabs set on the 9 foot long side. Each slab weighs between 600 and 700 pounds. Two crates were on the left side of the trailer, and one on the right side. The workers decided that they could not move the crates with the forklifts they had available at the business. They decided to try to move one slab at a time manually from the back of the box to the front, where they would pick it up with the forklift and remove it from the truck. They started with the box on the right side of the trailer. They were successful in moving three of the slabs. When the five workers moved into position to try to move the fourth slab, the remaining 7 slabs fell over onto the workers. Two of the workers were knocked out of the way, three were pinned by the slabs against the two crates of slabs on the left side of the trailer. The two uninjured workers tried to lift the slabs upright one at a time, but after moving several, the stack fell over again, causing the two bottom slabs to shatter into large pieces.

Date: 5/23/03

Age: 55

SIC: 1771 (Concrete Work)

Cause: Fall

Explanation: An employee was preparing the north side of a building for stucco, placing plastic sheeting over a window opening while working from the third level of a tube and coupler scaffold. Three planks in this section of the scaffold were 9 feet in length and had proper overlap of the scaffold support braces. The fourth plank, the plank closest to the building, was 8 feet in length and did just barely overlap the scaffold support on the left side. This fact was hidden by the plank that overlapped and was lying on top of it on that end. The short plank was secured by a nail driven down through the overlapping plank that rested above it. The scaffold was set up a distance of 21 inches from the side of the building to the nearest plank at the victim's work location. At some point the plank that the victim was standing on became unstable, the plank fell off the scaffold, and the victim fell to the ground.

Date: 6/10/03

Age: 49

SIC: 4212 (Local Trucking Without Storage)

Cause: Suffocation

Explanation: The company was contracted to excavate and clear the old silt tailings for a new building. The employee was using a Caterpillar 320B track-hoe with a "sheephead" attachment on the tailings wall so that he could load his truck. He apparently did not see that the wall was fracturing. The wall collapsed and the silt broke into the cab. The silt engulfed the employee from the neck down and slowly suffocated him under the pressure of the silt against his chest.

Date: 7/01/03

Age: 24

SIC: 0182 (Food Crops Grown Under Cover)

Cause: Crushed

Explanation: A laborer was assigned to spray down/wash out a growing room. He picked up his hose in the area where the growing trays are filled with mulch. He was walking up the middle of a 25 foot wide hall. Another employee was using a forklift to move 4 growing trays at the time from the tray filling room to a growing room. The hall slopes up from the tray filling room to the growing area. The forklift was traveling up the hall, with the load in the front, in the same direction the employee was walking. The load on the forklift struck the worker who was on foot, causing fatal injuries. The forklift operator did not know he had struck the individual until the worker had been dragged about 25 feet.

Date: 7/01/03

Age: 37

SIC: 3273 (Ready - Mixed Concrete)

Cause: Crushed

Explanation: The employee was cleaning the concrete from the front fins of the concrete drum and chute with a hose and spray gun after delivering the concrete to the site. The cleaning procedure is done from a platform above the cab of the truck. He climbed up to the loading cowl to get a better angle to clean the fin and fell into the rotating drum.

Date: 7/28/03

Age: 62

SIC: 3949 (Sporting and Athletic Goods)

Cause: Crushed

Explanation: The employee was servicing a stapling machine that he had accessed by climbing underneath a hydraulic lift table. While he was working, the lift table was activated. The lift table came down upon the employee, causing fatal crushing injuries.

Date: August 19, 2003

Age: 33

SIC: 4215 (Courier Services, Except by Air)

Nature: Electrocuted

Explanation: The employee was attempting to retrieve a fallen package from underneath a conveyor system when he made contact with an energized metal surface while at the same time in contact with a grounded surface, he was electrocuted as a result. The energized surface was a package distribution trailer. Approximately 4 days prior, a light fixture inside the trailer had failed, as a result the electrical circuit conductors were damaged inside the light fixture case which ultimately energized the entire distribution trailer. In conjunction, the equipment grounding conductor for the trailer electrical system had been ineffectively installed so that the grounding conductor was insulated from the intended system grounding equipment. As the distribution trailer had become energized and the grounding conductor was ineffective, the victim provided a grounding path for the circuit as the lower half of his body was in contact with the grounded platform at the same time as he contacted an energized metal structure within the trailer.

Date: October 24, 2003

Age: 42

SIC: 3331 (Primary Smelting and Refining of Copper)

Cause: Scalded with steam

Explanation: The worker was assigned to repair an expanded metal cover over a fan housing on the exterior of the building. He was approximately 100 feet above the ground in an aerial lift, reattaching the cover using self-tapping screws and a drill. A steam vent located about 10 feet from him (below and to one side of the working location) normally has only a small amount of steam emanating from it. Process equipment released steam into this vent line, creating a large steam cloud around the employee, fatally scalding him.

Date: October 24, 2003

Age: 39

SIC: 5193 (Flowers, Nursery Stock, and Florists' Supplies)

Cause: Crushed

Explanation: The employee was removing a truck from a flatbed trailer. The employee had secured the truck with chains to the front and back axle. The employee had removed the chain from the front axle and lead springs. He then climbed on the trailer underneath the drive shaft of the truck to remove the chain from the rear axle and springs. The chain did not release. The employee used a hammer to bang on the hook. The chain released and the truck rolled backward and the drive shaft came down on the employee.

Date: November 6, 2003

Age: 64

SIC: 2411 (Logging)

Cause: Crushed (Logging)

Explanation: The employee was found dead on the job-site on November 8, 2003. He had been working alone at a logging site located in the Rapid Bear area of the La Sal Mountains near Moab. Evidence provided by the Grand County Sheriff's Office suggests that the victim was run over by his Barko 16DA Logging Loader Truck. Although there were no witnesses, it appears that the truck began rolling down a hill. It is possible that the victim in an attempt to stop the truck, tried to climb into the cab of the rolling truck. In the process of climbing into the truck Mr. Martinez may have fallen off the running board onto the ground where he was struck by the rear tires.

